

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495
TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB 495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

**Victor Bjornberg
Tourism Development Coordinator
Montana Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0533**

Project Name

.Anglers Roost Fishing Access site and boat ramp

Project Description

Angler's Roost is located south of Missoula in the Bitterroot valley. The private campground/RV park lies 3 miles south of Hamilton on Hwy 93. It includes a gas station and store that sells groceries and fishing and hunting supplies. It has been used by the public to access the Bitterroot River without a fee for many years. This reach of the Bitterroot River is heavily fished by anglers both from shore and boats. Anglers Roost is the only reasonable access for boats in this reach of river. The heavy use by the public is evidence that it is strategically located for this use.

FWP proposes to lease a fishing access within the Angler's Roost Campground for 10 years. As part of the lease agreement, FWP will pay \$500/year and construct a concrete boat ramp at the site of the existing boat launch site. FWP will also sign the site as a public fishing access. A portion of the property will provide vehicle parking and angler access to the Bitterroot River.

Anglers Roost was part of the Public Lands Fishing Access program which was funded by the 2001 legislature under House Bill 292.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, It will provide for better angler access to the
Bitterroot River.

This reach of the Bitterroot River is heavily fished by anglers both from shore and boats. Anglers Roost is the only reasonable access for boats in this reach of river. The heavy use by the public is evidence that it is strategically located for this use.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, it will improve the quality of the access to the river.

As part of the lease agreement, FWP will pay \$500/year and construct a concrete boat ramp at the site of the existing boat launch site. FWP will also sign the site as a public fishing access. A portion of the property will provide vehicle parking and angler access to the Bitterroot River.

Public access to the property will be made directly from US 93 as it has in the past. Directional signing will be placed along Hwy 93 to direct the public. The boat ramp will be built at the site of the existing eroded boat slide. Fishing access site signs will be posted on Highway 93 and at the campground to direct anglers.

Signature: Victor A. Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, Travel Montana, Montana
Department of Commerce

Date: Feb. 5, 2003